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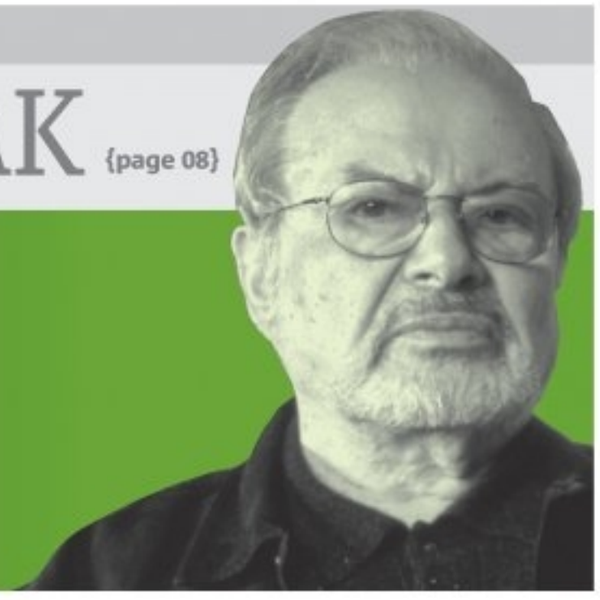
IT WAS A 'WILD' RIDE, MR. SENDAK {page 08}



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BOSTON
Wednesday, May 9, 2012

Pit bull saves owner from oncoming train

'Lilly' dragged unconscious owner from tracks as freight train barreled toward them Dog recovering from leg amputation after being hit by locomotive {page 02}

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Lilly is recovering from her surgery at Angell Animal Medical Center's Emergency and Critical Care Unit in Boston, where doctors say her selfless bravery has captured the hearts of the entire staff.

Metropolitik

Presidential candidates rewrite history

One wants to take back statements on gay marriage
Other wants to take credit for policy he opposed {page 06}

No cape on this Hollywood hero

Mila Kunis is giving the Avengers a little competition {page 09}

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Dog foils train tragedy

- Lilly, a pit bull, had to have her leg amputated after getting struck while saving her owner
- Officials call dog a 'hero' for staying by owner's side after pulling her from the train tracks

A dog that frantically pulled its owner out of the way of an oncoming train, moments before it came barreling down the tracks, is recovering at a Boston animal hospital.

According to reports, Lilly, an 8-year-old pit bull, dragged her unconscious owner out of the train's path on Friday, but was unable to move in time to avoid being hit herself.

While her owner, Christine Spain, was OK, Lilly lost the muscle and skin on her right foot, broke her pelvis and suffered from internal injuries.

The train's conductor told police in Shirley, where the accident took place, that he saw the dog drag Spain away from the approaching train, and after being hit, watched as Lilly stayed by Spain's side until help arrived.

Doctors at Angell Animal Medical Center in Boston had to amputate the dog's right front leg because the damage was so bad.

Lilly had an additional surgery on Sunday and is now recovering at Angell's Emergency and Critical Care unit.

According to reports, Lilly was a gift to Spain from her son, Boston Police Officer David Lanteigne, for therapy.

"Lilly's recovery from this horrific ordeal is my top priority right now and I'll do everything possible to get her back home to us," said Lanteigne.

Doctors at the MSPCA said bills for Lilly's medical treatment will run thousands of dollars, so they have started a fund where people can donate to help her get better.

"Lilly's selfless bravery has captured the hearts of our entire staff. Her injuries are very serious and her road to recovery will be long. But she's got the character and spirit that sometimes trumps all of our medical advances when it comes to recovery," said Angell staffer Dr. Meg Whalen.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Lilly, photographed yesterday in Angell's Emergency and Critical Care Unit, is expected to make a full recovery.

STEVE ANNEAR
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Prominent pits

According to Dog Whisperer Cesar Millian, in the early 20th century, pit bulls were beloved American mascots and largely associated with children.

Earlier this year, Millian's website, cesarsway.com, highlighted several prominent pit bulls throughout history, including Helen Keller's beloved canine companion, Sir Thomas. Petey, the famous mascot of the Our Gang/Little Rascals shorts, was also a pit bull.

Giving pit bulls a good name

BOSTON. At a time when some consider pit bulls dangerous, Lilly put the breed on the map for being responsive, the MSPCA said.

"Lilly's selfless bravery has captured the hearts of our entire staff."
DR. MEG WHALEN, OF ANGELL'S EMERGENCY UNIT

"Lilly's story has moved us all beyond measure. I hope her actions will underscore the truth about pit bulls — that they are amazing animals and are as devoted to their family as any other dog," said Jean Weber, an MSPCA director.

In the news

$27M

Amount a Southern California real estate investor and entrepreneur donated to Boston College and BC High, according to a press release issued by the schools yesterday. The money Patrick F. Cadigan gave to BC will go towards a new facility on the college's campus, as well as a fine and performing arts and recreation center at BC High. METRO

Today's local tweet

"Congratulations to Christian Donovan and Richard Sieboldt who will be sworn in as #MBTA Transit Police Officers [Tuesday] at 11AM Faneuil Hall."

@MBTATRANSITPD GIVING PRAISE TO TWO NEW OFFICERS THAT GRADUATED YESTERDAY

Zuck is a no-show for IPO meet

BOSTON. Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg was nowhere to be seen during a meeting with investors in Boston yesterday.

According to reports, Facebook's IPO "Roadshow" was held at the Four Seasons hotel but Zuckerberg, a former Harvard student, wasn't there to field questions as expected.

Instead, CFO David Ebersman and COO Sheryl Sandberg gave investors the chance to ask about the new public offerings scheduled to unfold later this month.

▶ Zuckerberg

Roughly 200 people were present at the invite-only presentation, as Facebook's employees tried to pitch reasons investors should throw money into their stock.

According to WCVB, Facebook set stocks at between $28 and $35. METRO/SA

Casino plans suspended

FOXBOROUGH. New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and casino mogul Steve Wynn announced yesterday that they suspended their plans to build a casino in the town.

The announcement came a day after voters elected two new Selectmen who opposed the casino.

Kraft said that the citizens of Foxborough had spoken through the election, according to Boston.com. METRO

Petition vs. shocks at Rotenberg Center grows

CANTON. An online petition formed to rail against a Canton-based center that uses shock therapy on children has surpassed 216,000 signatures.

Titled "Judge Rotenberg Educational Center: Please Stop Painful Electric Shocks on Your Students," the petition is aimed at the center's leaders. It was created by a former employee who said he also shocked children.

The center was the subject of international media attention last month when a video of a teen being shocked was played in court during a civil trial brought by the boy's parent against the center and three of its psychologists.

216K The number of signatures obtained on a petition to stop electric shock therapy on students at the Judge Rotenberg Center.

The video showed the teen being held down by workers then being shocked multiple times while shouting.

The two sides settled shortly after the jury began its deliberation. METRO

News in brief

Coffee Talk with Mayor Menino

BOSTON. Want to talk to the city about open space and other neighborhood needs?

Well, grab a seat and a Dunkin's coffee because Mayor Thomas Menino, along with the city's Parks and Recreation officials, will hold a series of meet and greets to gab about what's going on in the Hub.

The meet-ups will focus on gripes about city services, and what locals would like to see in certain parks.

The meetings will be held from May 15 to June 23.

Visit cityofboston.gov for a complete list of meeting places. METRO

Gov. Patrick's daughter is hospitalized

MASSACHUSETTS. Gov. Deval Patrick's eldest daughter Sarah, 26, fell ill Monday night and was hospitalized.

Sarah was having dinner in the Berkshires with Patrick's youngest daughter Catherine when she became temporarily disoriented, according to the State House News Service.

Both Patrick and his wife cleared their schedules to be with their daughter, a statement said.

A spokesman said Sarah was resting comfortably yesterday and all tests were normal. She was to remain in the hospital overnight for observation.

Patrick will return to his schedule tomorrow. METRO

Child advocates putting pressure on gaming panel

A children's advocacy group is calling on the interim executive director of the newly formed Massachusetts Gaming Commission to reveal details about a settlement he reached with the family of a child he was accused of abusing.

"We believe the presumption of … truthfulness of the alleged child victim should be equally considered," said Jetta Bernier of Massachusetts Citizens for Children.

Stan McGee, 43, was accused of assaulting a 15-year-old boy in a steam room in Florida in 2007. However, prosecutors decided there was not enough evidence to charge him with a crime.

The Globe reported that Gaming Commission Chairman Stephen Crosby said he conducted no investigation and concluded that McGee could be hired based on news reports that prosecutors did not press charges.

A spokeswoman for the commission said yesterday that McGee and Crosby would not comment on the issue.

Child advocates said the state and commission should look into the allegations.

"An individual who is a defendant in a criminal case is entitled to the presumption of innocence. This is not a criminal case," said Carmen Durso, an attorney who has represented child sexual abuse victims. "No public agency should hire an individual with a credible allegation of sex abuse rendered against him."

McGee eventually settled a civil claim brought by the teen's family. Durso said if the details of the settlement were released, the amount of payment would indicate the accuracy of the teen's accusation.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

"If I were on the commission I would want to ask more questions."
ATTORNEY CARMEN DURSO

Timing questioned

During the time of the accusation, McGee worked as an assistant secretary for policy and planning in Gov. Deval Patrick's administration.

- After the Florida prosecutor decided to not press charges, McGee returned to work.
- When asked by a reporter why they didn't raise this issue then, Bernier and Durso said the issue wasn't on their radar.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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Back Bay loses power again — briefly

Power went out in the Back Bay neighborhood yesterday, giving many residents and office workers a bad case of deja vu.

The first reports of power outages came in about noon, but about 45 minutes later electricity started to return to some buildings and traffic lights.

More than 13,000 homes and businesses were impacted, including the Prudential tower and mall and the Boston Public Library's Central Branch in Copley Square.

People living and working in the Back Bay reacted to the outage on Twitter.

▶ Boston police direct traffic.

"Can there stop being power outages in the back bay?! This is getting ridiculous!," posted @maura117.

The MBTA reported no service interruptions in the area during the outage.

Boston police officers were sent to the area to help direct traffic at intersections where traffic lights failed.

Yesterday's power outage comes about two months after a massive transformer fire caused an outage for days in the neighborhood for thousands of power customers. Both outages occurred because of problems at the same substation on Scotia Street.

It was still unclear as of press time what the exact problem was that caused yesterday's outage.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
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PHOTOS: NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ Massachusetts Avenue quickly filled up with people evacuated from their buildings during yesterday's brief power outage.

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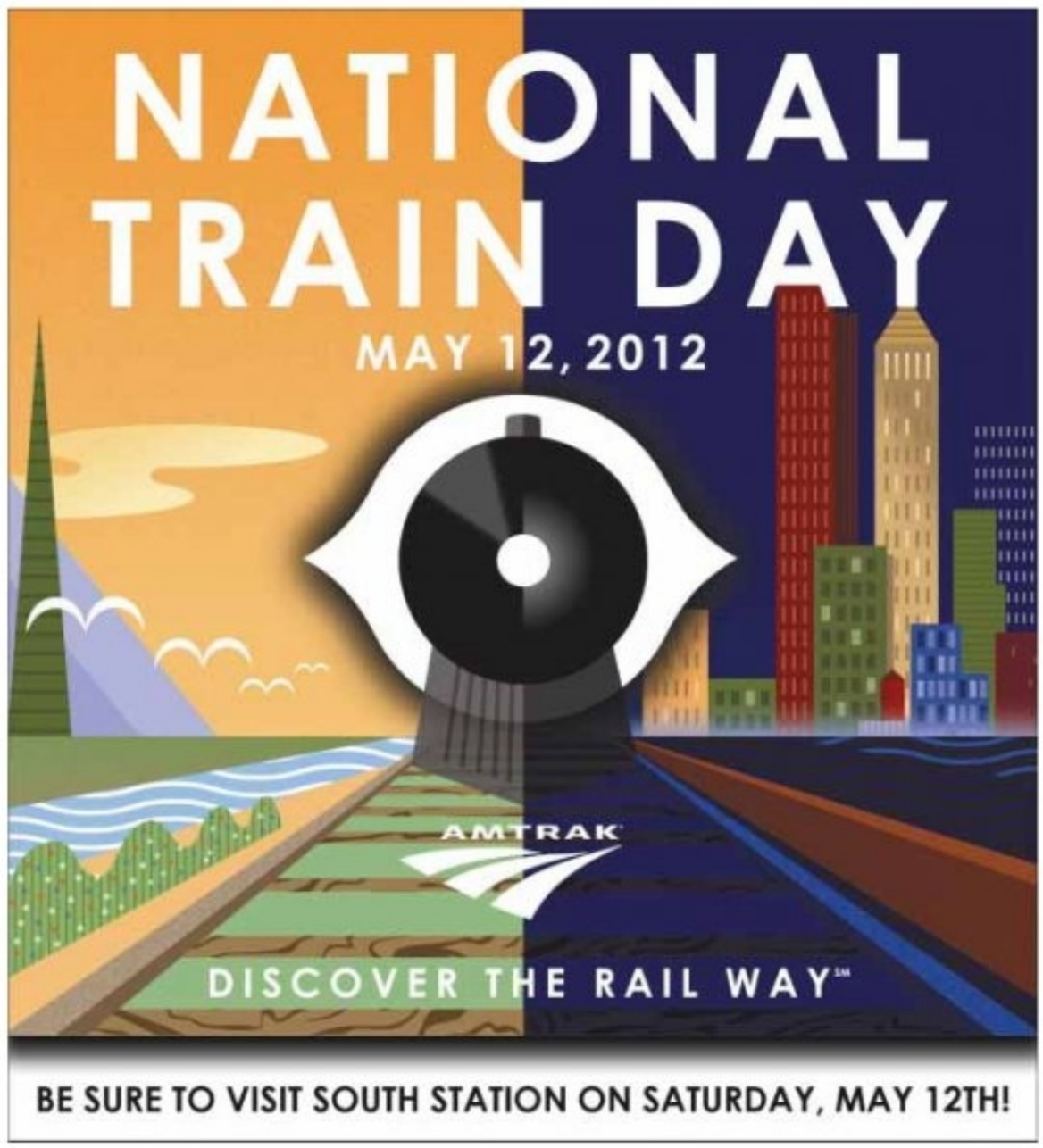

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Obama, Romney reimagine the past

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POLITICAL WORLDLINESS FOR AN IMPOLITE WORLD

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This week, the race to win the future has become a battle over the past. On their respective paths to the White House, President Obama faces continuing pressure over his opportunistic flip-flop on same-sex marriage, while Republican rival Mitt Romney attempts to relitigate the auto bailout in his favor.

Let's start with the president. Obama's troubles over his "evolving" stance on gay rights aren't going away; since we wrote about this issue Monday it's only gotten more air. The background: In a 1996 survey, Obama came out in favor of such legislation. Now he's trying to tiptoe through the tulips, as it were, unwilling to verbalize his past beliefs.

"I favor legalizing same-sex marriages," he wrote then, "and would fight efforts to prohibit such marriages." Now it's something he "wrestle[s] with," a semantic matter of "understanding ... the traditional definitions of marriage."

Obama is struggling against history on this one, and even Republicans — who generally oppose the policy themselves — are joining in on the condemnation. "Either you are for something or you are against it," former New York Gov. George Pataki accused yesterday. "Obama seems to want to have it both ways."

Indeed he does, though that might imply an evolution on bisexual marriage, at the least. We haven't seen that either.

▶ Obama rethinks history.

▶ Romney rewrites history.

GETTY IMAGES

For his part, Romney is clear on his present anti-equality stance. "It's a position I've had for some time, and I don't intend to make any adjustments at this point," he said on Monday. Romney may be generally cagey, but we believe he's bound to this stance. He has, after all, signed the National Organization for Marriage pledge to add anti-gay language to the Constitution.

Meanwhile, following a week in which he criticized Obama over credit-taking in the successful raid on bin Laden, Romney now claims specious credit of his own. Romney would like a pat on the back for the current strength of the auto industry despite opposing a bailout at the height of fallout from the mortgage collapse. "I'll take a lot of credit for the fact that this industry has come back," Romney said on Monday.

We're sure you will. But is it deserved? That seems less clear, in part due to Romney's vague and shifting positions on the subject. "He's been on every side of the auto rescue at different times and said different things," says Steve Rattner, the auto czar who oversaw the bailouts, "so it's hard to know what he honestly thinks."

This much is clear: In 2008, Romney and Obama each agreed that car companies ought to go through the bankruptcy process. The key difference — and this is important — is that Romney wanted to let private interests handle it, while Obama argued for billions in federal tax dollars.

Romney fought the Obama bailout in the strongest possible terms. In a highly publicized New York Times Op-Ed from 2008 called "Let Detroit Go Bankrupt," he argued that following the administration prescription would mean "kiss[ing] the American automotive industry goodbye." Oh, and also this: "Its demise will be virtually guaranteed."

Obama went for the politically risky bailout, and it seems he made the right choice. At the time, with financial firms stretched to the point of collapse, there simply was no private money to be lent. "Without government support in one fashion or another, there were no sources of funding," argued Arthur J. Gonzalez, the judge who managed the Chrysler bankruptcy.

Romney was proven wrong, but still wants the credit; Obama was on the right side of history, but now has devolved. Two politicians, two different historical revisions. When will they understand? Politics lives in the present.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages.

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News in pictures

Guided tour of the museum

Sendak's connection to Rosenbach dates to the 1960s, when he first visited. He's been donating his artwork and creations ever since.

1: Hundreds of Sendak's early sketches give enthusiasts intimate views of how the artists arrived at finished products.
2: Sarah and Alex Kaminski, of Philadelphia, toured the museum's Sendak gallery.
3: Jen King browsed Sendak's "Brundibar."
4: All of Sendak's illustrated works are on display at the museum near 20th and Delancey.

METRO/AW

PHOTOS: RIKARD LARMA/METRO

Find Sendak at well-kept Philly secret

Maurice Sendak was a gifted storyteller from a young age, said longtime friend and Rosenbach Museum John C. Haas Director Derick Dreher. "He really was a storyteller from his earliest day."

"As a child, he was sickly and he was not allowed to go out and play stickball with the other kids, so he would sit on his stoop and tell stories to other people. Everyone gathered around him."

The Rosenbach Museum was open to the public free of charge yesterday in memoriam of Sendak's death at 83. "'Where the Wild Things Are' is definitely one story my kids love and my husband and I grew up on it, too," visitor Mary Kaminski said as she guided her children, ages 4 and 6, through the museum.

She and others wandered through galleries containing more than 10,000 illustrations and manuscripts donated by the author beginning in 1966, when he befriended the museum's then-director at a Free Library conference.

"I've gone around the country and gotten to hear a lot of people's reactions to Maurice's work," said Traveling Exhibitions Coordinator Patrick Rodgers. "You have these great, deep conversations with total strangers because everybody goes back to first seeing it as kids."

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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

Mila Kunis, superhero extraordinaire

JASON LAVERIS/FILMMAGIC

▶ If "That '70s Show" didn't defeat Kunis, nothing can.

Mila Kunis is having quite the scary week, but she's been handling it like a pro.

On Friday, the actress called police after a man followed her to the gym for the third day in a row. **Stuart Dunn**, a 27-year-old homeless man, had previously been ordered to keep his distance from Kunis after allegedly breaking into her Los Angeles home in January.

Then yesterday, Kunis was dialing 911 again when a man who worked at her home suffered a violent seizure. After he collapsed, she turned his head to the side to prevent choking and offered to ride with him in the ambulance, reports TMZ.

It's just as we suspected: Mila Kunis is an advanced, beautiful superhuman with lifesaving powers, immune to even the perfect excuse to skip the gym. How else do you think she survived eight years in patterned bell-bottoms opposite **Ashton Kutcher**?

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ If only we could be so lucky, Sheryl.

Maybe she is crazy, too

Sheryl Crow had to ask her audience for help when she forgot the words to her hit "Soak Up the Sun" during her Saturday show in St. Petersburg, Fla. "I'm 50, what can I say! My brain has gone to s—!" she said after getting back on track.

Which begs the question: What wonderful, merciful rock has Sheryl been hiding under for the past 10 years? I still can't get halfway through the grocery store without hearing about how carefree and tan this chick is.

Join the club, Humphries

Kris Humphries — better known as **Kim Kardashian**'s ex-"husband" — is trying to win custody of that 20-karat rock.

"Kris wants the ring back because the marriage only lasted 72 days and he believes it was based on fraud and deceit," a source tells PerezHilton.com. "Remember, Kim filed for divorce. Kris paid for that ring, and he just can't fathom why Kim would want to keep it."

Well Kris, we want the four hours we spent watching your wedding special back. Best to just move on.

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Kanye West is taking over to let us know about some men's fashion trends of which he's not particularly fond. Take it away, Kanye.

@kanyewest
Just driving through the city and I see a few thing I hate...

@kanyewest
I hate hoodies with sport coats

@kanyewest
I hate khaki trench coats with jeans and off brand work out sneakers

@kanyewest
I Hate big ass striped scarves

West

Talking points

Masseur files claim against Travolta

An unnamed man is suing **John Travolta** for sexual battery and assault, claiming the famous actor tried to have sex with him after hiring him for a massage, according to E! News. The suit claims Travolta stripped naked, fondled himself and made several sexual advances at the man. It also states Travolta bragged to the plaintiff that he "got where he is now due to sexual favors he had performed when he was in his 'Welcome Back, Kotter' days." According to the suit, Travolta apologized for his advances and paid the plaintiff double his $400 masseur fee, but apparently that wasn't enough, as he is seeking $2 million in general damages, unspecified punitive damages and court costs. "This lawsuit is complete fiction and fabrication. None of the events claimed in the suit ever occurred," a rep for Travolta says in a statement.

Prince Harry back with his ex?

Prince Harry can't seem to keep ex-girlfriend **Chelsea Davy** out of his life, as the two — who split up officially in 2009 — are reportedly seeing each other, according to Us Weekly. "They're not dating again, but they are seeing each other," a source says. "There's definitely a romantic connection still. They will never be 'just friends' — both of them admit that's impossible."

▶ Prince Harry

No bad mugshot for Matthew Fox

Matthew Fox was arrested for driving under the influence in Oregon earlier this week, but by Hollywood arrest standards he can count himself lucky. "He didn't take a booking photo because the machine was broken," a source tells TMZ. "He'll have to come back and get that done another day." The former "Lost" star was reportedly stopped at 3:23 a.m. while on his way to a fast-food restaurant with a passenger in the car.

Chastain sitting next 'Iron Man' out

Jessica Chastain took to her Facebook page to break it to fans that she won't be going up against **Robert Downey Jr.** in the next "Iron Man" movie. "Sorry to say that 'Iron Man 3' isn't going to work out. My schedule is jammed packed and I can't fit anything else in," Chastain posted. "The press announced my possible attachment far too soon." She was reportedly set to play a "sexy scientist" in the third installment.

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The best of the Met

The Costume Institute Gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art is like fashion's version of the Oscars — only without the boring awards ceremony. Here are some of our favorite looks from Tuesday night — and a couple that missed the mark.

TINA CHADHA
tina.chadha@metro.us

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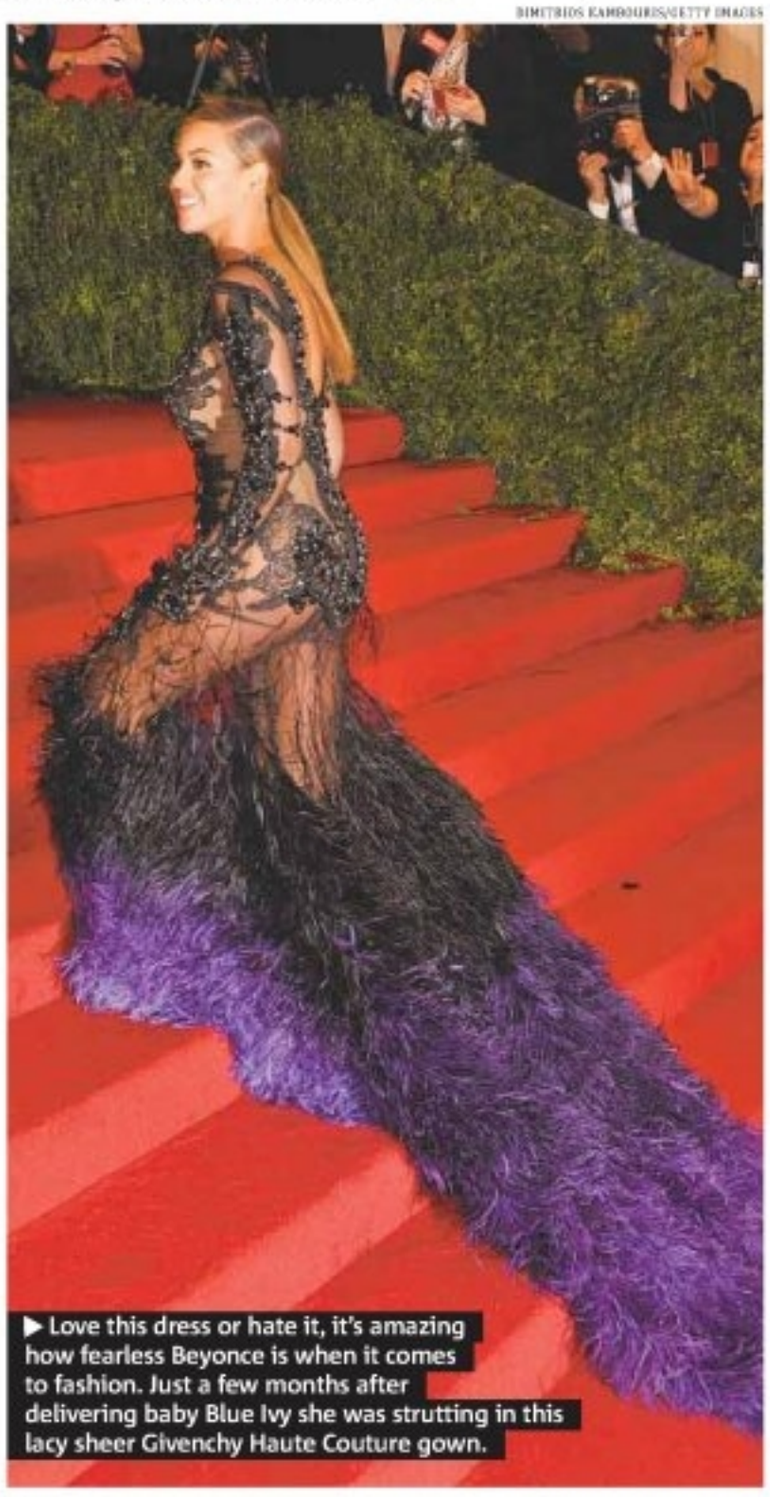
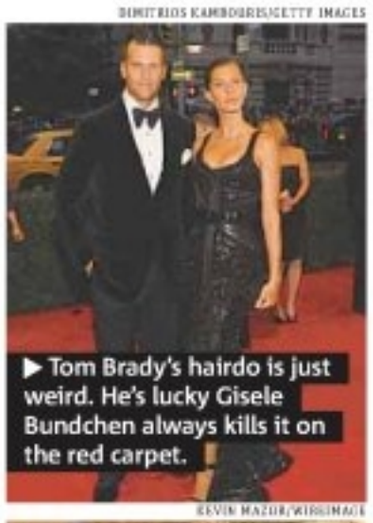


▶ Love this dress or hate it, it's amazing how fearless Beyonce is when it comes to fashion. Just a few months after delivering baby Blue Ivy she was strutting in this lacy sheer Givenchy Haute Couture gown.

LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Mary Kate Olsen, fashion samurai, you went too far in this dress by The Row.

DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES

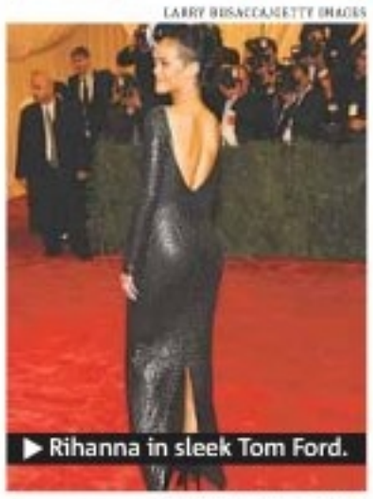


▶ Tom Brady's hairdo is just weird. He's lucky Gisele Bundchen always kills it on the red carpet.

DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES

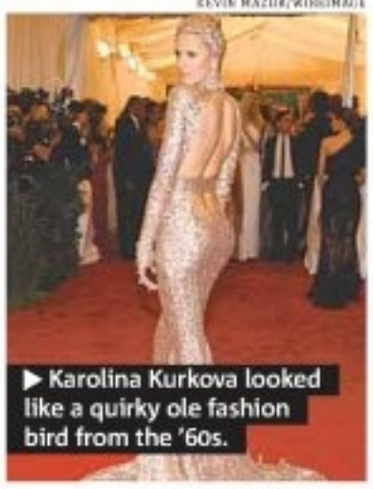
▶ Not to be outdone by Beyonce, Marc Jacobs went with a sheer lace Comme des Garcons number.

LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Rihanna in sleek Tom Ford.

KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE



▶ Karolina Kurkova looked like a quirky ole fashion bird from the '60s.

LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Hot Betty's back! January Jones wakes us up in a bright yellow Versace gown.

LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jessica Alba was one of the many stars who channeled Old Hollywood.

DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Co-chair Anna Wintour wore a white Prada gown.

LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Coco Rocha bought her yellow vintage Givenchy suit at the Liz Taylor auction.

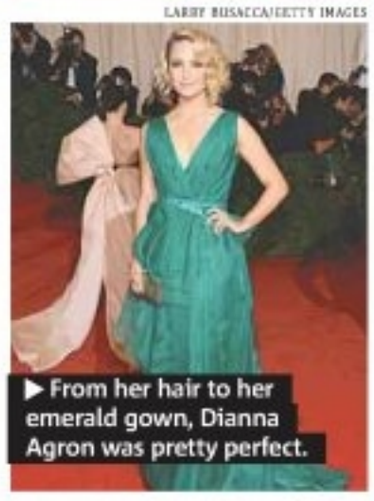
LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Lana Del Rey in Altuzarra looked Goth and brooding — to match her cape, perhaps.

KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE

▶ Jessica Biel and Justin Timberlake looked happy in love.

LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES



▶ From her hair to her emerald gown, Dianna Agron was pretty perfect.

LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Florence Welch reminded us of a pretty dandelion in her Alexander McQueen gown.

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When needles meet nerds

‘Science Ink’ documents the eccentric tattoos of scientists

“Each tattoo has all sorts of stories behind it. There’s the story of the scientist, the history of the science that’s being depicted there.”
CARL ZIMMER

For his new book, “Science Ink,” science writer Carl Zimmer collected images of and musings on scientists’ geeky tattoos, from simple equations to all-out depictions of dinosaur destruction. We caught up with the author to talk about nerdy ink and whether there are any tattoos in his future.

What set you off in search of science tattoos? Did someone come to you with a science tattoo that they had? Did you spot one in the wild?
I spotted one in the wild. There’s a neuroscientist that I know named Bob Datta at Harvard. I happened to see that he had a tattoo on his shoulder that was of DNA. I asked him about it and he explained to me how he had encoded his wife’s initials in the sequence, and I thought to myself, “Wow. This is a new kind of tattoo that I haven’t really appreciated before.” And I thought it was funny that I knew him fairly well and I had no idea that he had this tattoo on him, and so I started to wonder if other scientists were hiding tattoos as well.

Have you found that any fields of science are more well represented than the others?
Certainly mathematicians and physicists are well represented, partly just because an equation like E=mc2 is pretty straightforward for a tattoo artist. For whatever reason, I didn’t have that many geologists or earth scientists. I don’t know what that means. I’ve brought this up and geologists have objected loudly that there are plenty of them with tattoos, but for some reason not many of them have been sending them to me.

Has doing this project inspired you to get any ink?
Maybe someday. I’m not going out of my way to get one, but I’m not ruling it out. I really like the idea of a tattoo that encodes your loved one’s initials. Instead of DNA, I would probably do proteins, because their building blocks are represented by a single letter and I could spell out my wife’s name if I did it that way. A tiny little protein would do the job.

MATT SONIAK
letters@metro.us

SCIENCE INK

▶ “We know that the oldest preserved skin, which is about 5,400 years old, has tattoos on it. It definitely goes deep into human history,” says Zimmer.

TV watch list

‘Around the World in 80 Plates’

REALITY. Imagine your favorite culinary competition shows hitting the road — in 80 cities across the globe — and you’ve got “Around the World in 80 Plates.” Celeb chefs Curtis Stone and Cat Cora host this foodie version of “The Amazing Race.”
Series premiere, 10 p.m., Bravo

‘CSI’

DRAMA. The “CSI” team investigates three dead bodies found blocks away from a campaign dinner. But more intriguing to viewers might be the arrival of D.B.’s wife, Allison (guest star Peri Gilpin), and the return of Hodges’ mom (guest Jaclyn Smith) and the undersheriff (Conor O’Farrell) who killed Warrick. **Season finale, 10 p.m., CBS**
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Don't forget the man behind the Avengers

Clark Gregg has appeared in almost every new Marvel movie Here's a word from the S.H.I.E.L.D. agent

WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES

▶ Agent Coulson is the glue of the Avengers team.

In a franchise of characters going from comic book pages to the big screen, Clark Gregg's deadpan Agent Coulson has been going the other way, popping up on screen in "Iron Man," "Iron Man 2" and "Thor" before being turned into a Marvel comic book character. Now, the hard-working S.H.I.E.L.D. agent's efforts to bring the heroes together pay off with "The Avengers."

It's pretty ambitious, five movies leading up to this one. How has it been from your perspective?

I wasn't quite sure how I was getting to be a part of this, it seemed so surprising. I was lucky. Something about the character was clicking. They knew where they wanted to go, but they weren't quite sure exactly how, and they picked a character who wasn't even in the comics to start to be the thing to tie it together. I was doing scenes in "Iron Man 2" talking about going to New Mexico, and finally I pulled somebody aside and said, "What's in New Mexico? I'm sorry, I feel like I read the script and I don't know this." And they were like, "Nobody talked to you? You're going to be in 'Thor.'"

At what point are you usually allowed to know things about the franchise?

Me? Last. Always last. They do tell me a little, and I've gotten pretty good at hanging around on set and talking to [producers] Jeremy Latcham and Kevin Feige and just listening very closely. Every once in a while I figure out something about what's coming next.

Everyone was very hush-hush about "The Avengers" to avoid spoilers. Can you give those who haven't seen it some fake spoilers?

I guess the one thing that I can reveal as a fake spoiler is that what really, at the end of the day, brings the Avengers together is a "Beat It"-style dance-off with the alien invaders.

It makes sense, really, considering the success of the "Step Up" franchise.

That's exactly right. "Avengers Step Up," yes. And it's good to get all the male Avengers in the catsuits too. It's only fair.

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Q&A

Do you have a favorite Avenger?

You know, it may sound like a copout, but Agent Coulson is not the father, certainly, of this dysfunctional family, but he is kind of like the weird uncle who babysits a lot. And I think there's a choice you make of just, "I'm never going to have a favorite." There's certainly some that are often favorites. I think there's a special kind of snarky rapport with Tony Stark that Agent Coulson actually really enjoys.

Interview

WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES

▶ Colbie Smulders takes on the role of Maria Hill in "The Avengers."

'The Avengers' is full of heroes, and one unknown: The new girl

"How I Met Your Mother" star Cobie Smulders was far from an avid Avengers fan before coming on board as S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Maria Hill, but that didn't mean she wasn't excited to join the team. The Canadian actress was quick to learn the job would have some challenges — like getting security clearance.

How familiar were you with Maria Hill before taking on the role?

Not at all, sir. Not at all. When I auditioned, too, I auditioned for "Female Agent" because they were very hush-hush about it. And then I went in to do a screen-test with Samuel L. Jackson and they were like, "for Maria Hill." So that's when I went onto the Web and started looking her up and finding any comic book I could find on her.

Comic fans are notoriously picky about depictions of characters. Was there any talk of cutting your hair to match Maria's look in the comics?

I went in there and said I want to cut my hair off, and they said no. And I'm actually quite grateful for that now, because they did give me a severe bang, which took a long time to grow out and look normal. But I went in guns a-blazing like that. "Let's do it!"

What were some of the cooler aspects of making a movie of this scope?

We went to a NASA location in Cleveland and we shot there for a day, maybe two. And we got to go in where they test the effects of zero gravity on different things. And it was so funny because I'm Canadian, and because I was Canadian I had to bring my passport and I had a guy follow me around the whole day. Because I was going to steal all the secrets and bring them back to Canada or something. We are, you know, very sneaky. Our space program is really hush-hush. We've got some major developments. [Laughs.] METRO/NE

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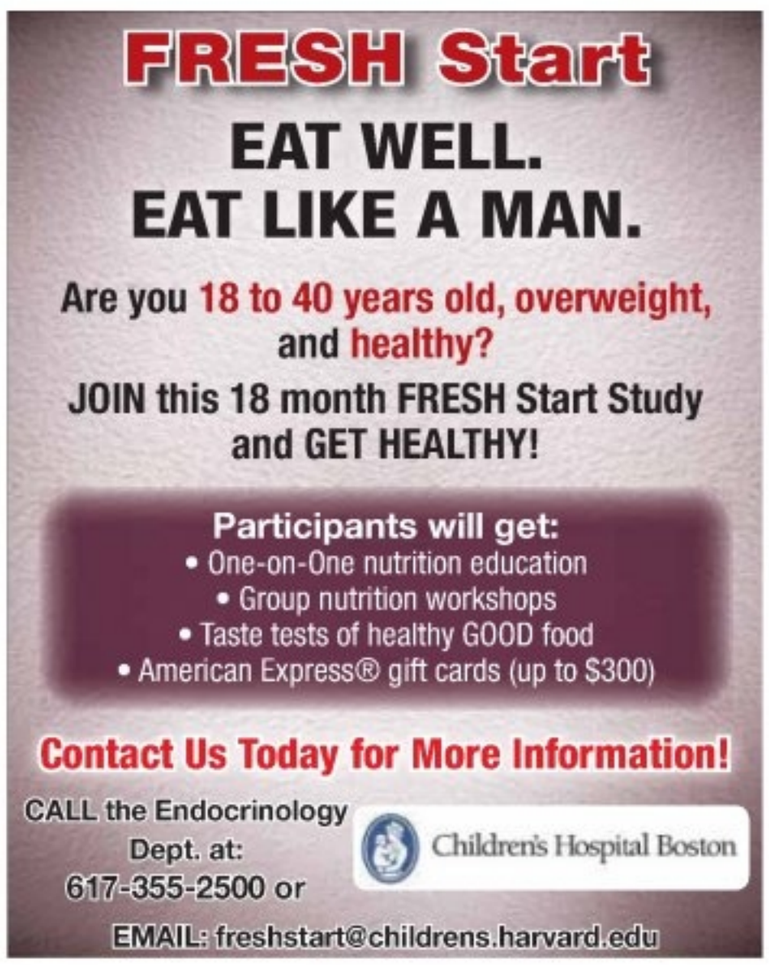
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GETTY IMAGES

▶ Sendak

Maurice Sendak had no love for e-books, but they would love him

For those of us who grew up reading "Where the Wild Things Are," which was first published in 1963, yesterday was a dark day. Its author, the sometimes irascible Maurice Sendak, died at 83. He leaves this world without ever seeing his works on an Apple iPad, Kindle Fire or E Ink Kindle, and that's just the way he wanted it.

In an interview earlier this year with Comedy Central talk show host Stephen Colbert, Sendak offered his unvarnished opinion on e-books. "F— them. I hate those e-books. They cannot be the future. They may well be. I will be dead. I won't give a s—."

Though the Colbert interview was played mostly for laughs, Sendak wasn't kidding. His books, including the new "Bumble-Ardy," are not available on any digital platform.

In a Guardian interview he was no less adamant, "I hate them. It's like making believe there's another kind of sex. There isn't another kind of sex. There isn't another kind of book! A book is a book."

LANCE ULANOFF FOR MASHABLE

Google's self-driving car gets a license in the state of Nevada

BRAND X PICTURES

▶ Look, Ma! No hands!

GPS and artificial intelligence allow this car to drive on its own

The state of Nevada has issued a first license for one of Google's self-driving cars — provided there are two people inside the car at all times, The Associated Press reports.

Nevada's DMV has issued the license after conducting demonstrations that the car is safe for testing on public streets.

Google's self-driving cars use a laser radar on the roof of the vehicle to detect obstacles, pedestrians and other cars. With the help of GPS and a bit of artificial intelligence, the car can drive itself with very little or no intervention from the human sitting inside.

That said, Nevada's regulations require two people in the test cars: one in the driver's seat, and other monitoring a computer screen that shows the car's planned route as well as traffic lights and other potential hazards on the road.

As soon as the "driver" touches the brake or the wheel, he takes control of the vehicle.

We had a chance to test out one of Google's self-driving cars in March 2011, and the results were good: no glitches, no unwanted close encounters with walls or other obstacles.

However, in August 2011 one of Google's cars caused an accident on the road.

STAN SCHROEDER FOR Mashable
The Social Media Guide

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Style picks

Spring beauty essentials

1. High impact nails: Thakoon for Nars limited edition nail polishes inspired by the designer's spring 2012 collection, $18 each, www.narscosmetics.com

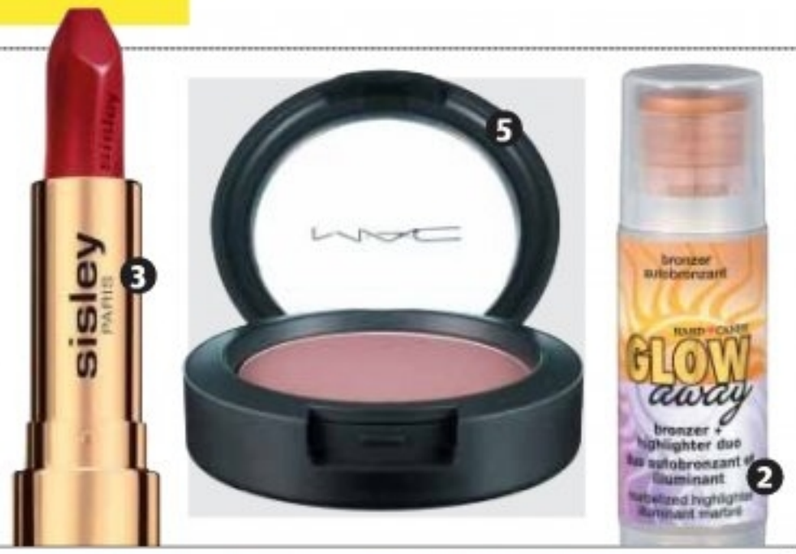
2. Earth tone skin: Hard Candy Glow Away Bronzer and Highlighter Duo, $6, www.walmart.com

3. Bold,statement pout : Sisley-Paris Hydrating Long-Lasting Lipstick, $55, www.neimanmarcus.com

4. Clean canvas: Tatcha Polished Rice Enzyme Powder, $65 each, www.tatcha.com

5. Rosy cheeks: MAC Reel Sexy blush in Pink Cult, $20, www.maccosmetics.com

TINA CHADHA



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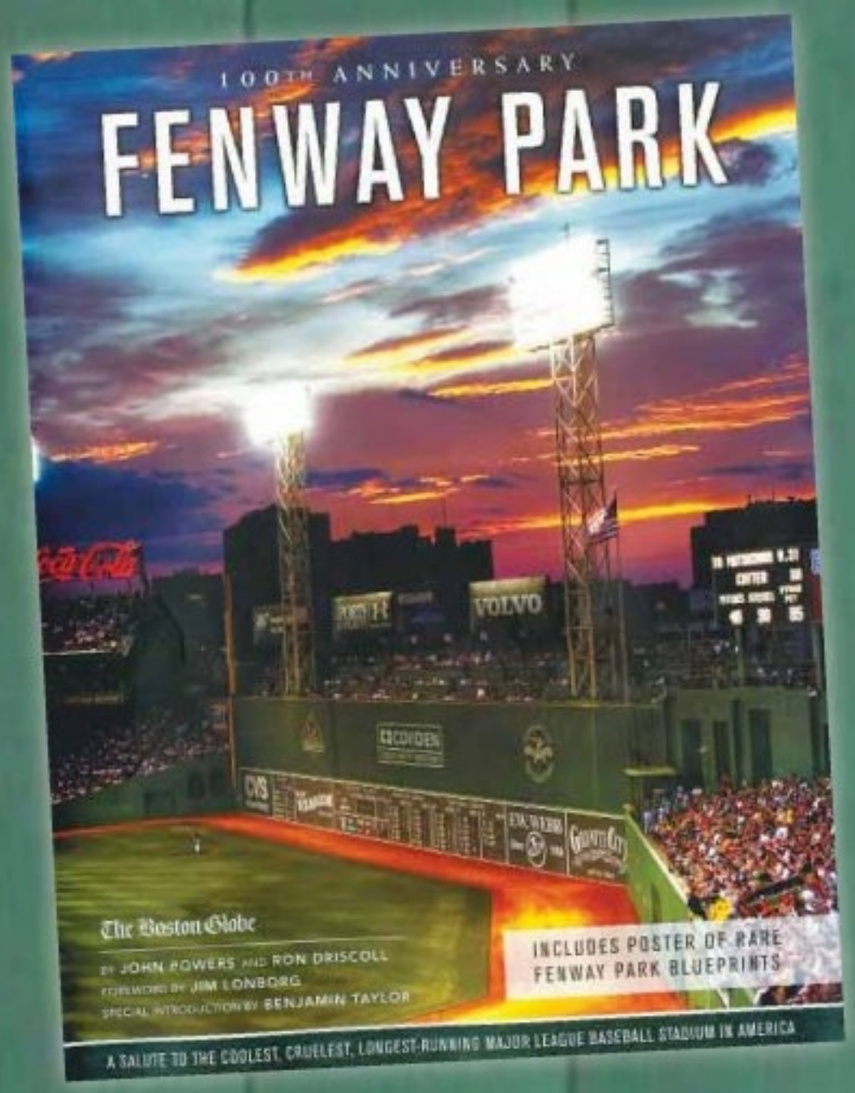
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The dangers in your own home

Numerous chemicals you come in contact with every day haven't been evaluated, expert says One doc's opinion on the FDA's recent rule against banning BPA

The synthetic chemical bisphenol A, which is used in the linings of beer, soda and food cans, plus plastic water bottles, has been exposed as a hormone disrupter and linked to autism, cancer and other complications in the body. But it might be just the tip of the iceberg of toxic chemicals impacting us every day.

"There are 80,000 chemicals in everyday use that have never been tested," says Dr. Carlos Sonnenschein of Tufts University School of Medicine's Department of Anatomy and Cellular Biology. "It really is a nightmare."

Despite decades of research supported by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences on the harmful effects of BPA and other endocrine disruptors, Dr. Sonnenschein says that "very little has been done about it where it counts for the public, that is, at the regulatory end (EPA, FDA)."

Quoted

"Throughout our lives, continuous exposure means the body is storing the chemicals in fat tissue."
DR. SONNENSCHEIN

Dr. Sonnenschein urges the public to get involved in banning toxic ingredients because "nothing will change," he says, "without protests before officials who run for local, state and national office. The public has an important stake in this."

The potential effects of such ingredients are widespread: "Hormonal disruptors, at their most radical, cause fetal damage during pregnancy. There's more incidence of breast cancer as there's more exposure. [Pubescent girls] are particularly sensitive to exposure. But, throughout our lives, continuous exposure means the body is storing the chemicals in fat tissue," Dr. Sonnenschein adds.

"Most people are fed up with all these chemicals. The evidence is there. It is time for the regulatory agencies to act to protect the people."

LINDA CLARKE
letters@metro.us

STOCKBYTE

▶ Could the chemicals in cans be making you sick?

BPA: here to stay

Despite a lawsuit from the international nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council, the FDA recently ruled to continue allowing BPA in food packaging. The NRDC's public health program's senior scientist, Dr. Sarah Janssen, responded in a statement, which in part read:

"We believe FDA made the wrong call. The agency has failed to protect our health and safety — in the face of scientific studies that continue to raise disturbing questions about the effects of BPA exposures, especially in fetuses, babies and young children. The FDA is out-of-step with scientific and medical research. This illustrates the need for a major overhaul of how the government protects us against dangerous chemicals."

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1
Research empowe RING women in the fight against HIV.
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Fenway Health is studying the possibility of preventing HIV using a medicated vaginal ring. We need HIV-negative women 18-40 to help.
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Fenway Health is seeking HIV-negative men who have sex with men to participate in a vaccine trial to determine the safety and effectiveness of an investigational HIV vaccine.
We are seeking volunteers: HIV-negative men, ages 18-50, who have been a top or bottom in the past 6 months. Volunteers receive compensation for their time and travel expenses, as well as confidential HIV counseling and testing.
You cannot get HIV from this investigational HIV vaccine.

2

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GUYS EXPERIENCING LUBE projectgel
3
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- A man who has sex with men?
- Willing to be tested for HIV?

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- Complete a physical exam, including an anal exam.
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You will receive compensation for your participation in this study.

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Toss it up

Do your co-workers get a little jealous when they see the cruciferous concoction you've created for lunch that day? If you put on a chef's hat every time you whip up some greens, consider entering Tossed's National Salad Contest. Through May 31, enter your original salad recipe for a chance at a $500 gift card to Tossed and your recipe becoming a July staple on Tossed menus nationwide. Learn more at www.tossed.com.

STOCKBYTE

▶ The Atkins survey also found that 56 percent of respondents typically feel lethargic or tired after eating a large, carbohydrate-focused meal.

Carb lovers, you're not alone

Nearly 9 in 10 (87 percent) Americans admit they crave bread, pasta and rice at least once a week and, on average, experience these cravings 11 times a week.

Source: Atkins Carb Index Survey

May is American Stroke Month

Top contributing factors to high blood pressure (a contributor to stroke), according to the American Heart Association:

- Family history
- Advanced age
- Gender (By 45, men are more likely to have hypertension. Between 45-50 and 55-64, the percentages even out. But after age 64, women are more likely to have it.)
- Lack of physical activity
- Poor diet
- Being overweight
- Drinking too much alcohol

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Letters

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Out and proud against gay rights

RE: "BIDEN A DARWINIST TOO, WHEN IT COMES TO GAYS": I want to let you know that I oppose gay marriage from the outset. Vice President Joe Biden is sending the wrong message that it's OK for two men or two women to love and marry each other, which I find repulsive. Joe Biden should send the right message and teach children that marriage is suppose to be between one man and one woman only.
DAVID BOWMAN, VIA E-MAIL

Deregulation good for criminal elite

Deregulating business has led to multiple American events of "the largest fraud in U.S. history" within the past 12 years, with each fraud bigger and costing more than the previous since those involved felt no consequences of their fraud. Those responsible have been rewarded with taxpayer-paid bonuses and free money to pay for their debts. Meanwhile, those hurt the most by all these crimes, who live check to check every week, have been blamed for all of the country's problems; those who have enough wealth to literally buy their own island nations have been exempted from all blame or accountability despite showing massive profits from those frauds. Time after time plenty of us in the 99 percent defend this anti-American behavior. **DOUG BROWN, VIA E-MAIL**

No wonder Romney loves Ryan budget

A more fitting name for the Ryan budget would be "Path to Poverty" as it would significantly worsen inequality and increase poverty and hardship for millions of vulnerable households. Republicans don't seem to care that one in four American children live in poverty. They're too busy lecturing Democrats about the budget deficit they created while defending huge tax giveaways to millionaires, big corporations and war profiteers. According to the nonpartisan Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, under the Ryan budget, millionaires such as Mitt Romney would receive an additional $265,000 yearly tax break while people making less than $20,000 per year would see a tax increase of $200. It's no wonder Mitt Romney called the Ryan budget "an excellent piece of work." **JEAN INGLIS, NAHANT**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Higher taxes don't create revenues

RE: "TAX INEQUALITY NOT SO SIMPLE TO SMEAR": While Ms. Miluski's taxation statistics may be correct she ignores the more fundamental question: Does the federal government have a revenue or spending problem? Debt is the result of continual deficits. Deficits are a result of expenditures being greater than revenues. Tax policy should be designed around economic growth. Tax increases don't generate revenue so it's obvious the government has a spending problem. **KELLY DONNOE, VIA E-MAIL**

French fell for socialism stories

So, the French have voted themselves a new socialist leader. What a disgrace! How voters could align themselves with the likes of Hitler, Lenin, Pol Pot, Castro, Karl Marx, et al, is beyond me. I guess the French people fell for the socialist fairy tale.
FRANK ST GEORGE, VIA E-MAIL

Horoscope

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Over the years, you've acquired much valuable information that you use in bits and pieces from time to time. It behooves you to market what you know in greater measure.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Don't hesitate to go along with changing conditions, even if they appear to have no practical purpose. They could carry you into greener pastures, where new things are happening.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Carefully consider all decisions that would affect others as well as yourself. A misjudgment on your part could have wide, negative consequences.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Carefully examine all the facets when considering a job change. Be sure any move you make will be a step up the ladder and not an ignominious descent.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If your social life has been a bit hollow lately, don't wait for the mountain to come to you. Take the initiative to get out, be friendly and mingle with as many new people as possible.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Before surging ahead on a brand-new idea, activity or project, bring to a satisfactory conclusion what you already have on your plate. Overlapping activities could tangle up your life.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** A good idea you've been mulling over that you haven't been able to get off the ground can be transformed into something that would fulfill a pressing need. Try it and see.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** There is some kind of channel available to you that you haven't utilized yet, but which could possibly contribute to your material security.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You have excellent chances for success if you take personal control over your life and make things happen without being subject to committee approval.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Because you're innately endowed with keen intuition and good powers of perception, you have better-than-average chances of arriving at accurate conclusions. Don't hesitate to use this gift.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Whether you realize it or not, you're endowed with sound instincts and excellent powers of perception. The trick to using them well is to make sure your attitude remains positive at all times.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Something to do with your career and/or finances that would have far-reaching, beneficial results can be achieved by applying a little extra effort. Make it your primary task.
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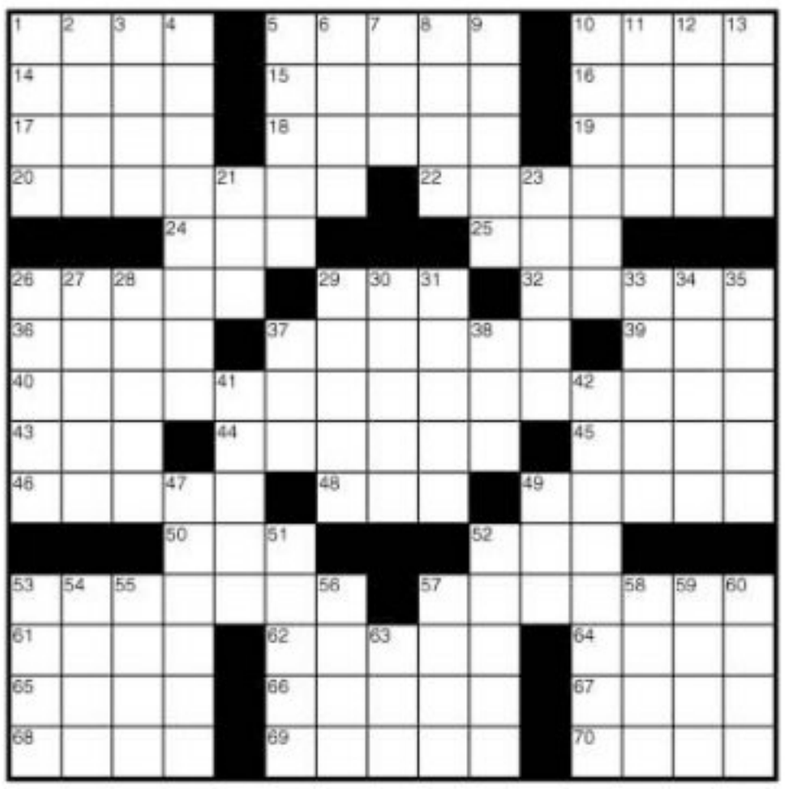
Across
1 Gray wolf
5 Friendly hombre
10 Storybook bear
14 Felipe or Matty
15 Untamed
16 Wild goat
17 Soften
18 Jungle warnings
19 Microwave, slangily
20 Currently (3 wds.)
22 Scolds
24 Brown of Renown
25 After expenses
26 "Humbug!"
29 Memo abbr.
32 Bleated
36 Country singer Randy __
37 Place for cocktails
39 Green seed
40 Is infallible (4 wds.)
43 Afore
44 Soak up
45 Indy champ __ Luyendyk
46 Fix the clock
48 Tunnel blaster
49 Fiber plants
50 Give, in Glasgow
52 __ de mer
53 Candy bar nuts
57 Tie pattern
61 Sherpa's sighting
62 Meditation guides
64 Charlie Chaplin's wife
65 Pince-nez part
66 Cry of woe
67 Pour forth
68 D.A. backup
69 Viking letters
70 Spotted animal

Down
1 Mantra chanter
2 Flamenco shouts
3 Sugarcane cutter
4 Come up and around
5 Frizzy hairdos
6 Pet plea
7 Keogh relative
8 Apparel
9 Folger's Mrs.
10 Fiesta decor
11 Border on
12 Lap dog, for short
13 Graph lines
21 Just bought
23 Medieval fiddle
26 Kind of struggle
27 Took an oath
28 "__ hoping!"
29 Pass inferior goods
30 Jack London setting
31 Dormant
33 Not together
34 Paranormal, to some
35 Titled ladies
37 Attorney's deg.
38 Schmooze
41 Tuxedo trim
42 Prepares to clobber (2 wds.)
47 Conceited one
49 __ alai
51 Whodunit award
52 Conceals
53 Jean Auel heroine
54 Wine sediments
55 Natural elevs.
56 Colleague of Scotty and Spock
57 Brownish-purple
58 Kinks' tune
59 Plenty, to poets
60 Open wide
63 Bled, as a color



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7		6						
			3		9			
						2		3
		8		2		9	6	
		9		7	5		8	
6		2				3		1

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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				5			3	
						7		5
	6	2			9	1		8
		1	4		5	3		
8		3	1			4	7	
7		6						
	8			7				
	1	5			2	8		

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS: **WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES**

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3

Back to the Garden

Ugly first half gives way to frenzied fourth quarter Horford burns Celtics Boston can't get shot off in final seconds of Game 5

Three things we saw last night in Atlanta:

A different Pierce

The Celtics were relatively healthy going into Game 4, but they still had guys to worry about. Paul Pierce was one of them, and there's reason to be even more worried after Game 5. Pierce came out hot to start the game, scoring nine points in the first quarter, but again seemed to have tweaked the knee that was already bothering him. He went on to score just seven points the rest of the way, and we already know that for the C's to win, they'll need their captain. He's been too valuable in this series to be at 50 to 75 percent now.

Game 6 in Boston

It would have meant a ton for the C's to clinch the series in Atlanta — with extra rest being the main reason. Now, they allow the Hawks more confidence heading into Game 6 back in Boston tomorrow. And if players aren't healthy, or not ready to step up for a full 48 minutes (looking at you, Rondo), we could have a Game 7 on the road. It was good to see Brandon Bass step up off the bench, but there weren't enough players on the C's with that mentality in Game 5. A game that was right there for the Celtics to grab slipped through their grasp.

86
CELTICS

87
HAWKS

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Josh Smith and the Hawks punched back last night and forced a Game 6 in Boston.

Game of Runs

The Celtics started the game exactly how everybody wanted them to, jumping out to an early 11-3 lead in Atlanta. It looked as though they were going to run the lifeless Hawks out of their own arena. But Atlanta had other ideas, as it came back later in the first, and by halftime, a sloppy game was tied at 40. The Hawks led by 12 points with a little over a minute left in the third, but collapsed, allowing the C's to score 10 straight points (six by Rajon Rondo) and trail by just two going into the fourth.

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

In the news

Pats new TE

The Patriots tight end corps is stacked. That we already know. But when New England quietly signed tight end Daniel Fells, it became clear that the Patriots value that position more than most NFL teams.

Fells spoke this week about how excited he is to be in Foxboro: "Traditionally, just looking at this offense, Tom's going to find the open man," Fells said. "That's definitely something that appeals to (me)."

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A better show on road

Red Sox playing much better away from Fenway ◗ Beating lowly AL teams on road ◗ Has Boston scrutiny already gotten to the 2012 club?

In his team's agonizing 17-inning loss Sunday at Fenway Park, Red Sox first baseman Adrian Gonzalez made history. He was the first Boston cleanup hitter ever to go 0-for-8 in a game. If others had done it before him, there's a good chance that none would have looked as putrid as Gonzalez, who made three straight first-pitch outs in extra innings before striking out on three pitches against Orioles designated hitter … ahem … reliever Chris Davis with two runners on in the bottom of the 17th.

Gonzalez refused to speak with reporters after the game. He was one of the primary targets of criticism on sports radio Monday afternoon.

And after all that, he stepped to the plate in the first inning in Kansas City on Monday night, battled through a lengthy at-bat against a lefty and blooped an RBI single to center. It was just a little sawed-off hit, but the disparity between the ineptitude at home and the signs of promise on the road spoke volumes not only for Gonzalez but for the team as a whole. Until things change in some form or fashion, this Red Sox team may need to be away from home in order to thrive.

8 **Number of wins the Red Sox had on the road heading into last night. They are over .500 on the road but just 4-10 at Fenway Park.**

The microscope focused on the Red Sox is as intense as it ever has been in Boston. There is a good chance that that, as much as injuries and uncertainty, is crippling the club. Meanwhile, the road version is better than .500 this year in games away from the bright lights and big city. Gonzalez's run-scoring hit kicked off an 11-5 rout of the Royals on Monday.

It is impossible to quantify pressure, attention and stress, and the ability or lack thereof to overcome. Boston finished 4-10 at home last year when the pressure, attention and stress were heightened to an inordinate degree. Last season's collapse, an awkward offseason and a woeful start under a new manager who's had his share of missteps have only served to increase the discourse surrounding the Sox. Who wouldn't want to get away from that? Sure, they're professionals and paid big money to answer questions and hear boos, but it's nice to not have to do either.

JIM ROGASH/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Adrian Gonzalez hasn't fared well at Fenway.

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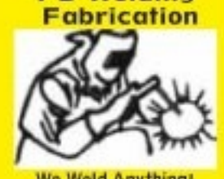

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Grow up, not out

A vertical pallet garden makes the most of tiny city back yards
How to get yours started

Outdoor space is hard to come by in a city, but you don't need a sprawling lawn to spruce up your home with plants and flowers. Instead of gardening out, garden up.

With vertical gardening, you plant on a wooden pallet or metal panel, then attach it to a wall or prop it up against a deck or balcony railing. "If you can wake up in the morning and look out at what was previously a brick wall and is now full of green living plants, it changes your whole outlook on the day," says Curt Alexander, owner of Urban Jungle, a vertical landscaping company and garden center in Philadelphia.

The trick, he says, is to arrange the plants so they all get enough light, which means making sure bigger ones don't throw a shadow on the little guys.

Most types of plants, flowers, veggies and herbs will work, says David Prendergast of Greensgrow, an urban farm in Philadelphia. The farm, open seven days a week, has examples on display for aspiring vertical gardeners.

RACHEL VIGODA
letters@metro.us

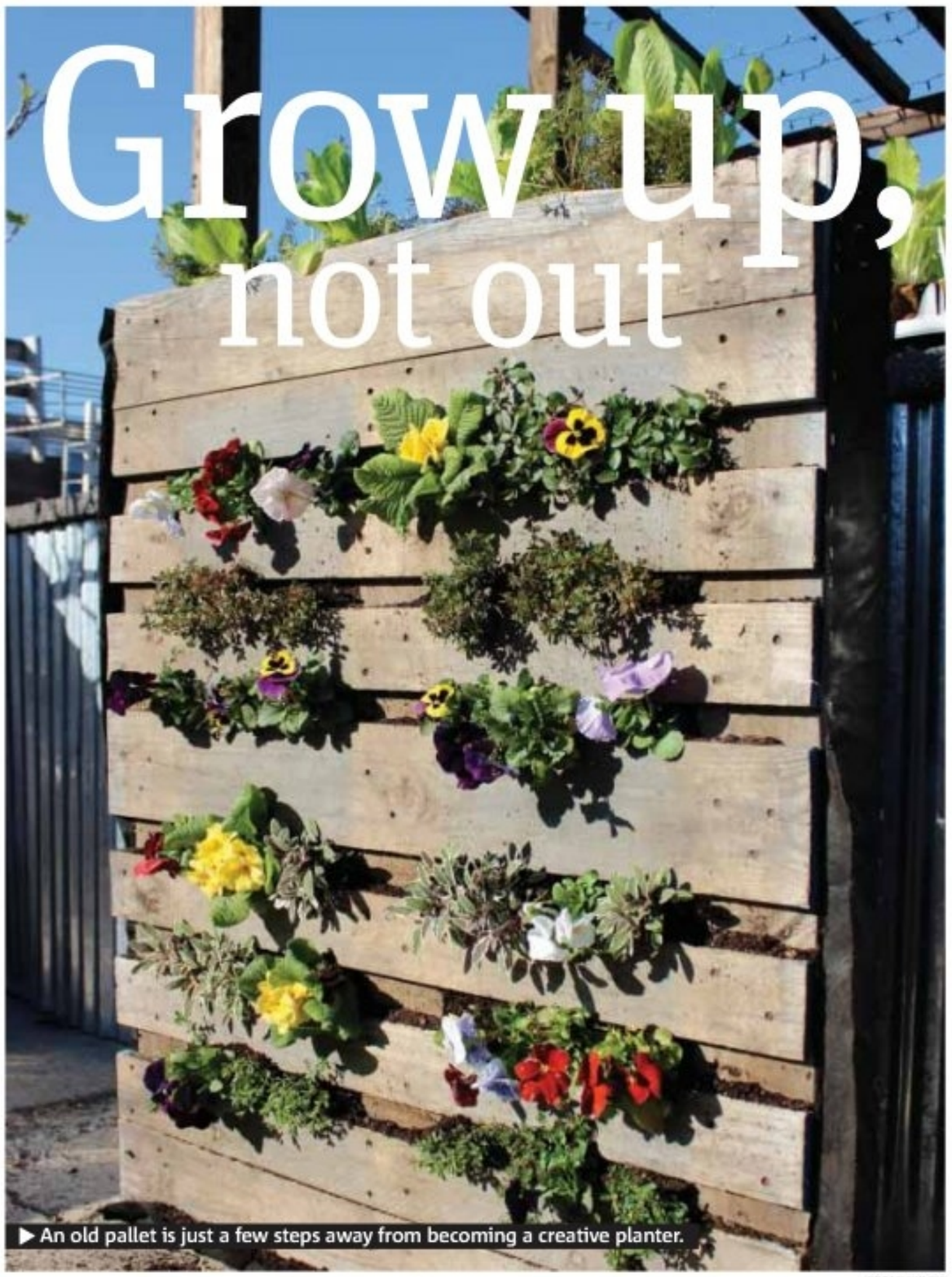
Keeping the bugs at bay

Incorporate mountain mint and marigolds into your pallet. Mountain mint wards off mosquitoes, and the scent of marigolds deters other bugs.

Step by step:

How to make your own pallet vertical garden

1. Get a pallet. "You can Dumpster dive, find one on the street, go to any [store]," says Prendergast. "They're readily available." Chemically treated pallets, which are painted a color, shouldn't be used for vegetables.
2. Attach landscape fabric to the back of the pallet by stapling it all along the edges, putting the staples an inch or two apart.
3. Snake a soaker hose (made of permeable rubber, so water will seep through and get distributed evenly) along the back of the pallet.
4. Lay the pallet down and fill the spaces with soil, two-thirds of the way full.
5. Plant your plants. About 32 plants should fill the pallet.
6. Leave the pallet flat for two weeks to give the plants time to "get established," Prendergast says. Make sure it's near where you want it to wind up, because it will be heavy.
7. Stand it up and attach it to a wall or balcony railing.
8. Enjoy your new green wall.



▶ An old pallet is just a few steps away from becoming a creative planter.

URBAN JUNGLE

Vertical gardens

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Tips

How to rent on the cheap

In today's market, we're all looking for as many tricks as possible to save money. For some pointers on saving on what's likely your biggest monthly expense — rent, we tapped Nicole Lapin, editor-in-chief of Recessionista.com.

LAURA CRIER

▶ Lapin

▶ **Prep like a pro:** Many buildings require proof of employment, one to two bank statements and a photocopy of your driver's license as part of the lease-signing process. Make several copies of these documents ahead of time and bring them with you while you look. If you see an apartment that you like, you'll be one step ahead of anyone else vying for it.

▶ **"Location, location, location":** Is the apartment far from the grocery store or subway? Is there laundry in the building? You don't want to lose the savings you've made on transportation or takeout, so make sure your pad is close to these necessities.

▶ **Go in for the long haul:** Before you sign the lease, ask your potential landlord if he or she will lower the monthly rent if you sign on for longer than 12 months. An 18-month or two-year lease means less work for them, such as finding a new tenant, painting and marketing the property at year's end, which could translate into major savings for you. At least ask for a longer-term discount — the worst they can say is no.

▶ **Newer can be cheaper:** While instinct might tell you to look into older walk-up buildings first, newer buildings can actually be sneak-attack money savers in the long-run. They're up to code and often come with energy-saving utilities, not to mention newer windows and insulation to cut down on heating and cooling costs.

▶ **Fix up, look sharp:** Take a close look at all of the apartment's fixtures, tiling, heating and air conditioning units, etc. to make sure they're in tip-top shape before you sign. The building's management will be more likely to fix any problems — and fast — if they think it might be a dealbreaker on signing. Better to have it fixed on their dime than to wait and pay for it yourself later. METRO

Top tricks for tiny turfs

You're never allowed to complain again about having a small pad — just wait till you see Jason Saft's
His best tips for small spaces

▶ Saft

When real estate agent Jason Saft was showing the 250-square-foot Chelsea studio he now calls home, he wasn't getting much interest:

"Everyone thought it was a s—hole," he says. But Saft had been secretly admiring the small space, and a fortune cookie that read "You have a strong desire for a home" was the catalyst he needed to make it his own.

Now a resident for about three years, Saft, who pays $1,750 a month in rent, has become an authority on living comfortably in a small space. We got his tips for making the most out of your tiny pad.

MEREDITH ENGEL
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Repurpose everything

Saft doesn't have anything extraneous around his digs — everything has a use, and some even have multiple uses. Take his nightstand, for instance. "Here is a great, old, vintage filing cabinet I found at a flea market. I had it put on casters so at times [it's] a seat [or] table, and I use it as an actual, real filing cabinet. Other times, when I've had parties, I've filled it with ice and used this as the bar. It's easy to move around."

Use every nook and cranny

Saft stores folding chairs, a vacuum and other miscellaneous items behind his dresser — positioned on an angle — to give the room some extra storage space. When he's not using his fireplace, it doubles as a bookcase.

Quoted

"Everything that I'm not using now is now storage for something else. Don't go out and spend money on s— you don't need."
SAFT

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Get creative

Saft's bathroom is so small it can only hold one person at a time. But he says: "Usually when someone's over and they're in the bathroom they'll come out 10 minutes later." Why? Kitschy former class photos and funny old report cards lure you in. And yes, that's a bike stored in the shower!

Don't settle for what's given to you

Saft removed his kitchen cabinet doors to open the space up and added an extra shelf for plates and bowls. "It made the kitchen interesting," he says. He also swapped in stemless wine glasses to save space and mounted his towel rack: "Your counters can get

really cluttered quickly. I try and use the wall space as much as possible."

Find double-duty furniture

"Because I have only one closet, I had to find space-saving pieces of furniture," Saft says. He keeps his T-shirt collection and winter clothes in drawers underneath his bed.

Declutter your desk

All of Saft's necessities for daily living — bike locks, cuff links, paper clips — are stored in this desktop box. "When you're in a small space, you have to accept the disadvantages that you have and be prepared to edit things and factor in every little purchase that you're gonna make," he says. "You also have to think about what you need and don't need: Sometimes I'll go into a space and see a coffee cup filled with 50 pens and a stack of Post-It Notes. The chance is that they will probably never use them in their lifetime."

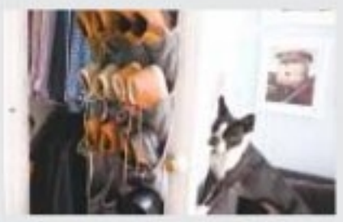
ALL PHOTOS: MARK OVASKA/METRO

Master some eye tricks

"Well-positioned mirrors bring in extra light and bounce it around the room," Saft says. "They can also open up a small space to make the room feel larger. Use mirrors to reflect light, not another wall." And keep your paint colors unified: "In a small space, if you keep the color palate all very similar, it flows."

Add extra shelving to your closet

"It's organized in a way [so] you can grab [things] quickly," Saft says of his multilevel storage space. "But the nice thing about having so small a space is it forces you to not go out and buy a ton of crap. It's weird, the amount of stuff you



can clown-car in through here, but it's just making things function."

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MISTAKES LANDLORDS MAKE IN RENTING

By Attorney George Warshaw

We're closing in on the new rental season. Are you aware of these common mistakes that landlords often make in renting apartments?

1. Cleaning Deposits, Pet Deposits and Move-In Fees. A landlord, by law, cannot require a tenant pay at rental more than a first month's rent, last month's rent, a security deposit of one month's rent, and a key and lock deposit. That's it.

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3. Defective Conditions. Nothing in the law permits a landlord to charge a reduced rent because the apartment is older or in a worn and tired condition. Every apartment at rental must be weathertight, provide adequate heat, be pest free and meet all Sanitary Code standards.

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George Warshaw is a real estate and estate planning attorney in Massachusetts. He represents buyers and sellers of homes and condos in Massachusetts, and prepares wills, trusts for individuals and families. George welcomes new clients and questions at metro@warshawlaw.com.

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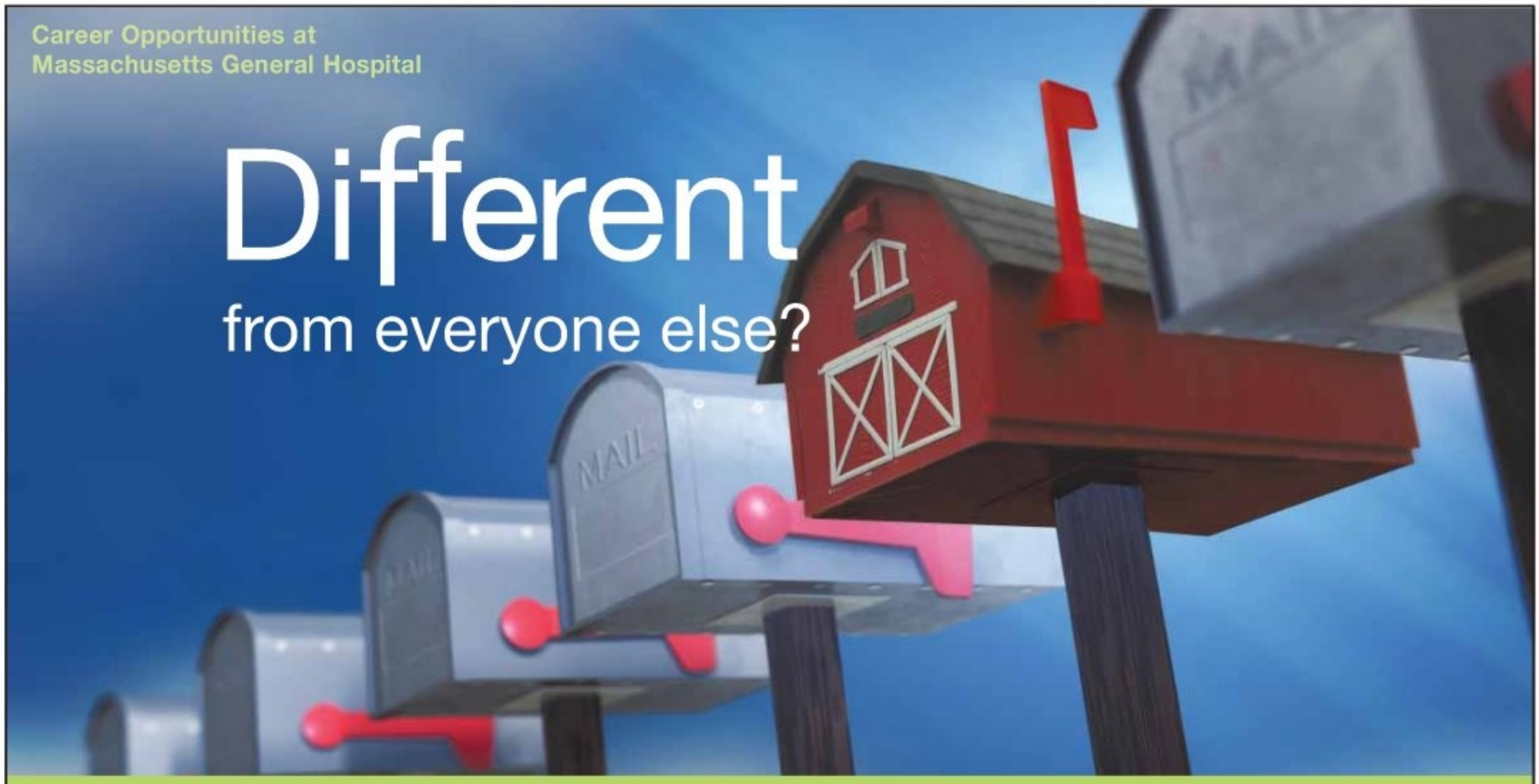

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